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AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

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Please cancel the present Abstract and substitute the following for it:

The invention provides a method of treatment of a chronic inflammatory disease (such as rheumatoid arthritis) in a patient, the method comprising the administration to the patient of a compound that selectively inhibits T_{ek} cells. Preferably, said compound selectively inhibits T_{ek} cell-induced release of one or more pro-inflammatory cytokines from monocytes. Advantageously, said compound inhibits NF- κ B. Conveniently, said compound activates PI3-kinase. The invention further provides a method of identifying a compound with efficacy in the treatment of a chronic inflammatory disease comprising the step of testing said compound for an ability to selectively inhibit T_{ek} cells. Preferably, said method of identifying a compound with efficacy in the treatment of a chronic inflammatory disease comprises the step of testing said compound for an ability to selectively inhibit T_{ek} cell-induced release of one or more pro-inflammatory cytokines from monocytes. Conveniently, the pro-inflammatory cytokine is tumour necrosis factor α (TNF α). The invention further provides compounds identifiable or identified by said methods and the use of said compounds in medicine. Additionally, the invention provides an antibody-like molecule

~~with specificity for Tck cells, and compounds comprising said antibody-like molecule and a cytotoxic moiety.~~

A method of identifying a compound with efficacy in the treatment of chronic inflammatory disease by testing the compound for an ability to selectively inhibit the ability of Tck cells to induce pro-inflammatory cytokine release from a monocyte is disclosed. The method includes pre-incubating Tck cells with a compound to be tested, optionally resuspending the Tck cells in the absence of the test compound, co-culturing the Tck cells with monocytes, and assaying for the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines by the monocytes. The Tck cells are produced by incubating a population of T cells with one or more cytokines or the Tck cells are isolated from synovial tissue. The Tck cells have not been contacted with an anti-CD3 antibody. The ability to selectively inhibit cytokine release indicates that the compound has efficacy in the treatment of chronic inflammatory disease.